Oil pollution in Bombay Port

1854. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the mysterious oil spill in Bombay Harbour towards the end of September, 1987 and beginning of October, 1987;

(b) what are the reasons of such mysterious oil spill;

(c) what is the amount spent by Bombay Port Trust for the clean-up operations;

(d) what is the estimated cost of marine life; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to prevent any such problem in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Bombay Port Trust has intimated that there were reports of oil pollution in September and October, 1987.

(b) The reasons of the oil spill have not yet been established.

(c) Bombay Port Trust has spent approximately a sum of Rs. 20,000 for cleaning of oil spillage inside the dock basin.

(d) it is difficult to quantify the loss f marine life.

(e) Bombay Port Trust proposes to uy an anti pollution vessel to combat ich situations.

PCOs in the country

1855. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: ll the Minister of COMMUNICAONS be pleased to state :

a) the total number of public call teleones in the country alongwith the num- of automatic public call telephones manned telephones separately;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of public call telephones; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of tourism in Madhya Pradesh

1856. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the fresh steps the Government have taken for the promotion of tourism in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to organise a conducted tour of Khajuraho temples, Kanha National Park and Jabalpur marble rocks for foreign and Indian tourists if so, the details thereof;

(c) at what places tourists lodges and hotels are proposed to be constructed in Madhya Pradesh for giving a boost to tourism; and

(d) whether hotels to provide cheap accommodation to domestic tourists also be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Department of Tourism undertakes promotion of India as a whole covering all the States. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, the following tourist literature has been brought out during 1986-87.

1. Bhopal-Sanchi-Mandu folder
2. Bhopal-Sanchi-Mandu directory
3. Khajuraho folder
4. Khajuraho directory

Madhya Pradesh is also covered in the general printed publicity material, films and advertisements etc. An advertisement on 'Mandu' was released as part of the Departmtnt's domestic campaign in all major print [illegible]

The Department arranges visits of foreign travel agents, tour operators and media representatives to various tourist centres in Madhya Pradesh also, so as to familiarise them with the tourist attractions of the State.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation is organising conducted tours of Khajuraho temples, Kanha National Park and marble rocks of Jabalpur on a regular basis. These tours are available to both domestic and foreign tourists.

(c) and (d) Government of India have already in principle agreed to provide assistance for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Gwalior. Three Yatrikas at Amarkantak, Chitrakoot and Onkareshwar have already been completed and a fourth one at Maheshwar already sanctioned. A 24-bedded Forest Lodge at Bandhavgarh is under construction.

Smuggling on SCI vessels

1857. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is growing menace of smuggling on Shipping Corporation of India vessels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bombay customs authorities have taken stringent measures against the erring crew members and the Shipping Corporation of India;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The number of smuggling incidents on the vessels of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. is on the decrease.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected.

(d) Strict instructions have been issued by the SCI to ships' personnel not to indulge/engage in smuggling activities and various notices concerning the same have been pasted in the accommodation of all the SCI vessels. Deterrent penalties have been imposed on personnel who are found to be involved in smuggling.

Appearance of Kalazar in Bihar

1858. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalajar has made its appearance in some districts of Bihar and as many as 10,000 people has been affected by it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the medicines required for this disease are to be imported and this is proving to be an impediment in tackling the problem;

(c) whether the Central Government would come forward to assist the State Government with medicines and also draw up a national plan for eradication of this disease; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes.

(b) The drug of choice for the treatment of Kala-azar is Sodium Antimony Gluconate which is indigenously manufactured and is available in the country. The cases who are resistant to Antimony Compound require Pentamidine which is not manufactured in the country. The number of such cases ranges between 7-8 per cent. 1800 ampoules of Pentamidine were made available to the Government of Bihar through the W.H.O. during 1986.

(c) and (d) Consequent to the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Kala-azar constituted by the Government of India, it has been proposed to take up anti-Kala-azar activities in Bihar and West Bengal as an extention of National Malaria Eradication Programme on 50:50 cost sharing basis.